

ISSUE
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GOAL

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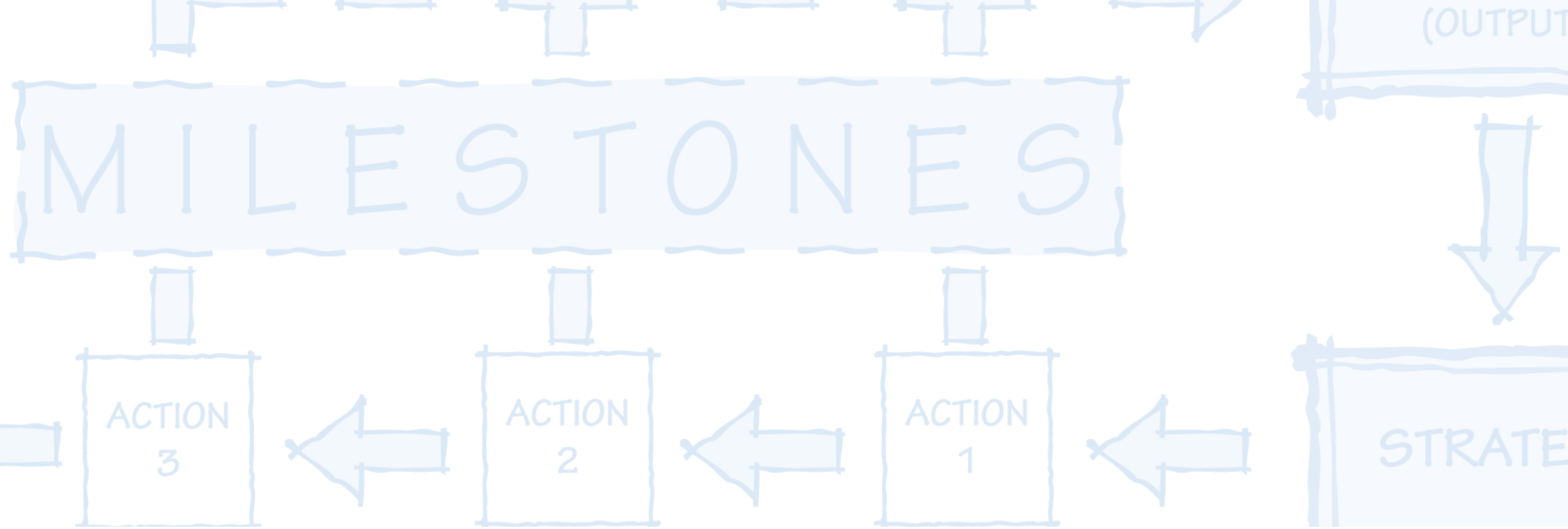
- Broad
- General
- Non-Tangible
- Identifies Scope

MILESTONES

Cedar River
INITIATIVE

LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY STRATEGY

CEDAR FALLS + WATERLOO, IOWA
NOVEMBER 2008



ESF #14 Long-Term Community Recovery (LTCR) is a community-focused Federal, State and local initiative. It helps disaster-impacted communities identify opportunities for a more effective recovery, facilitate partnerships that leverage a community's recovery and maximize the use of recovery resources. One (1) of fifteen (15) Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) authorized in the *National Response Framework* that guides the Federal response to disasters with significant impacts, ESF #14 LTCR is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program.

LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY STRATEGY

CEDAR FALLS + WATERLOO, IOWA
NOVEMBER 2008

- Identifies Resources
- Overcomes Challenges
- Provides Alternatives
- Creates a Roadmap



FEMA

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Downtown Waterloo walkway during Flood of 2008
Courtesy of INRCOG

Cedar River INITIATIVE

Long-Term Community Recovery Strategy (Strategy) for the *Cedar River Initiative* is a coordinated effort of Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG), Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Support Function (ESF) #14 Long-Term Community Recovery (LTCR) program. The role of ESF #14 LTCR was to identify activities to advance the *Cedar River Initiative* planning effort. Activities are documented and organized into this report which supports the *Cedar River Initiative*.

This *Strategy* includes a brief history of the Cedar River, Black Hawk County and the Flood of 2008. It also outlines the existing planning process INRCOG established for the *Cedar River Initiative* prior to the flood, summarizes the role ESF #14 LTCR provided to support INRCOG after the flood, and provides a plan of work for INRCOG's efforts going forward.

Cedar River Initiative is a multi-sector effort to increase the use of the Cedar River and enhance its watershed. ESF #14 LTCR in partnership with RIO provided convening, coordination, planning and facilitation support and incorporated flood-specific information into a *Cedar River Initiative Strategy and WorkPlan*. The *WorkPlan* helps INRCOG and *Cedar River Initiative* stakeholders identify and include recovery-specific strategies to jumpstart the *Cedar River Initiative* effort. This accelerated process will assist the existing stakeholder committees and INRCOG staff in critical decision making and in completing their planning process within a twelve- (12) month time frame.

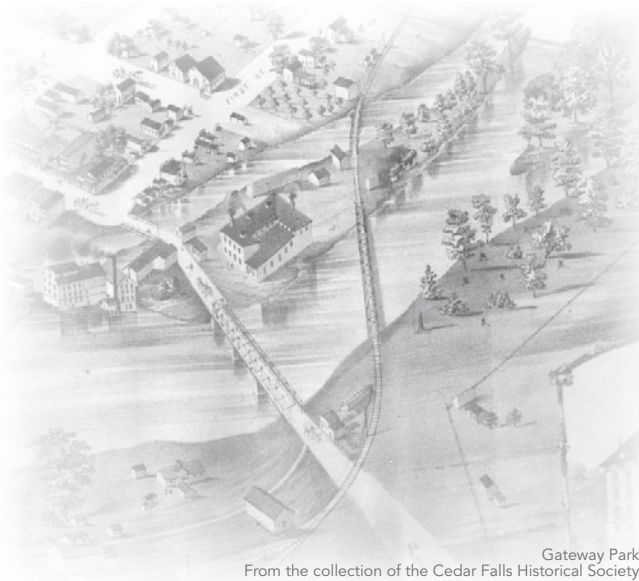


Downtown Waterloo during Flood of 2008
Courtesy of INRCOG



Railroad bridge over the Cedar River during Flood of 2008

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Gateway Park
From the collection of the Cedar Falls Historical Society



Ladies in Cedar River
From the collection of the Cedar Falls Historical Society



Low water level in 1888
From the collection of the Cedar Falls Historical Society

OVERVIEW

During the summer of 2008, Cedar Falls and Waterloo in Black Hawk County experienced the worst flooding recorded in the area.

On June 11, 2008, the Cedar River left its banks, creating damage throughout northern Cedar Falls and Waterloo. Heavy winter snows followed by a late thaw and excessive rain, in part, raised the Cedar River well beyond the one hundred- (100) year flood level. Hastily reinforced levees held, but unprotected areas were inundated. Flooding strained the design of area flood control systems, trapping stormwater runoff within the interior of the levee system and flooding areas without pumping stations. Both Cedar Falls and Waterloo downtown business districts were damaged as were small businesses, downtown museums and medical facilities. Almost one-third of businesses in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metro area — many housed in historic buildings — were affected.

Cedar Falls neighborhoods of Cedar City and North Cedar Falls were the worst hit. Hundreds of homes in the North Cedar Falls area sustained damage while an estimated

one hundred (100) living units were destroyed. In Waterloo, Sans Souci and part of Chautauqua Heights sustained record damage. Fifty (50) homes in Waterloo were destroyed, severely impacting the availability of affordable, workforce housing.

City facilities in both Cedar Falls and Waterloo sustained damage and power was out for a week in some areas, further compounding the impacts of the disaster. A critical railroad bridge, Iowa Northern Railroad, collapsed further affecting transportation systems, businesses and the lives of area residents. Floodwaters also halted construction of Waterloo's dam and bike trail projects.

Black Hawk County was among eighty-five (85) Iowa counties included in the *2008 Federal Disaster Declaration, 1763-DR-Iowa*. This was the third *Disaster Declaration* for Black Hawk County in the last five (5) years.

CEDAR RIVER HISTORY

Cedar River flows into the floodplain of Black Hawk County at the confluence of three (3) primary tributaries at the Turkey Foot. The river drains nearly ten (10) counties in north-central Iowa and fostered industrial and recreational development in the county.

In 1845, the first white settlers to the area found only a few livable sites. Cedar Falls and Waterloo were established around grist and lumber mills, a door-and-sash factory and woolen and paper mills. Ice harvesting lasted into the 1920s and sand mining has been a stable business since the 1880s. The development of Waterloo as the "Factory City of Iowa" in the 1890s intensified the river's use. Factories were located adjacent to the Cedar River to draw water for cooling and cleaning, and to return residual products and water used in the manufacturing process back into the river. Formation of Rath Packing Company (1891) and the development of the Westfield Factory site (1903) brought over twenty (20) new industries to the river's edge and had a profound impact on the river and its water quality. These industries required the construction of a new dam in 1923 to serve the nearby power company. In Cedar Falls, factory development was not as extensive, but several factories and the municipal power company located

along the river. During the next seventy-five (75) years the effect of factories on the river intensified. Responding to World War II production needs, factory impacts on the river increased. By the 1970s pollution was a growing concern, compounded as industries further from the river deposited waste into storm sewers. The levees, while effective in reducing flooding, limited access to the river. After 1980, as industrial development moved away from the Cedar River, the riverfront has become the focus of commercial, residential and recreational development opportunities.



Cedar River
From the collection of the Cedar Falls Historical Society

The Cedar River has always provided recreational opportunities. Fishing, including commercial harvesting, and hunting along the wetlands were popular through 1900. Boating and swimming were summer activities through the 1950s. Starting in the 1910s, the *Waterloo Riverfront Commission* began to construct river walls to prevent erosion, limit flooding and define property ownership. Cedar Falls and Waterloo as well as State and county entities developed parks along the river. More recently bike and recreational trails have been constructed. These trails were started in the 1970s and now encompass approximately one hundred and fifty (150) miles of connecting trails in the region.



Nature Valley Trail, Black Hawk County
Courtesy of INRCOG



Floodwater threatens pedestrian bridge, Waterloo
Courtesy of INRCOG

CHALLENGES ON THE RIVER

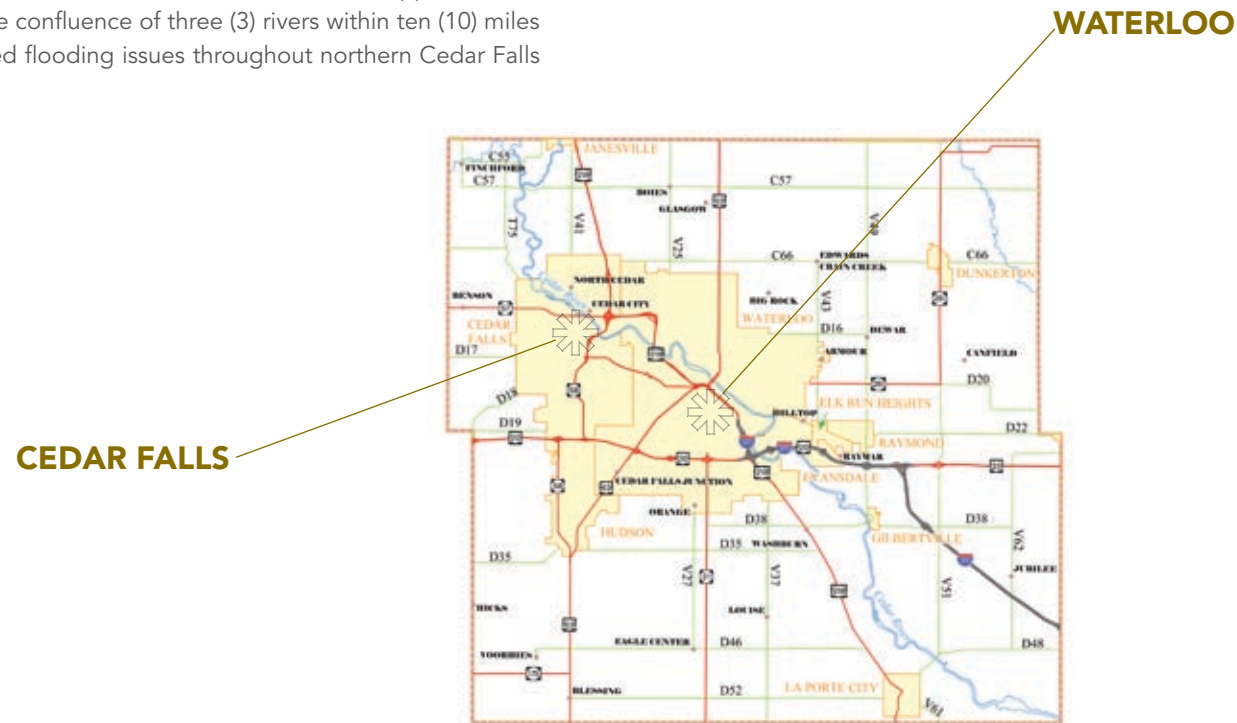
Floods have been a common feature of life along the Cedar River. High waters in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries destroyed bridges and brush dams and damaged downtown businesses and factories. Workforce housing built near industrial areas was affected. The devastating flood of 1929 brought a call for river levees, but it was not until the high water of 1961 that action was taken. The flood control project in Waterloo transformed the riverfront; Cedar Falls later followed with its own plan. These efforts protected the business districts, industrial areas and most residential neighborhoods. Storm sewer backup, however, remained a problem. The levee system worked well in the protected areas during the floods in 1993 and again in 2008.



West Park Avenue Bridge, Waterloo
Courtesy of INRCOG

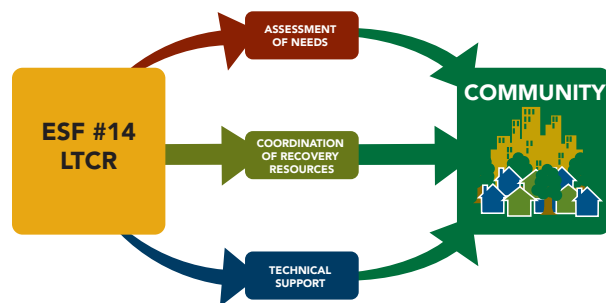
BLACK HAWK COUNTY

Black Hawk County is located in the northeastern part of Iowa. The Cedar River roughly divides the county in half from the northwest to the southeast corner. Land is mostly level and much of it is in the river's floodplain. The County includes approximately five hundred seventy-six (576) square miles. In 2000, Black Hawk County's population was 128,012 making it the fourth largest county in population in the State of Iowa. The majority of the county's population resides within Waterloo and Cedar Falls city limits. The City of Waterloo is the county seat. The City of Cedar Falls is located approximately eight (8) miles west of Waterloo. The confluence of three (3) rivers within ten (10) miles of Cedar Falls has historically created flooding issues throughout northern Cedar Falls and parts of Waterloo.



Black Hawk County, Iowa

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COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORT

ESF #14 Long-Term Community Recovery (LTCR) support is offered in partnership with State and local governments. It uses a community assessment process implemented by experienced recovery professionals and aided by subject-matter experts to determine whether a community would benefit from LTCR support. Assessments consider pre-disaster conditions, disaster impacts and post-disaster capacity (remaining staff, functioning workspace, existing building codes, etc.) to manage recovery. Assessment results help guide how ESF #14 LTCR assistance might benefit a community and the potential level of support needed.

ESF #14 LTCR in partnership with Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) determined that ten (10) Iowa communities would benefit from the additional recovery resources ESF #14 LTCR brings to a community. ESF #14 LTCR offers several levels of support. Final determinants of level of support offered are made in partnership with the State and local community based on community need, willingness to participate in LTCR activities and capacity to respond to the impacts of the disaster.

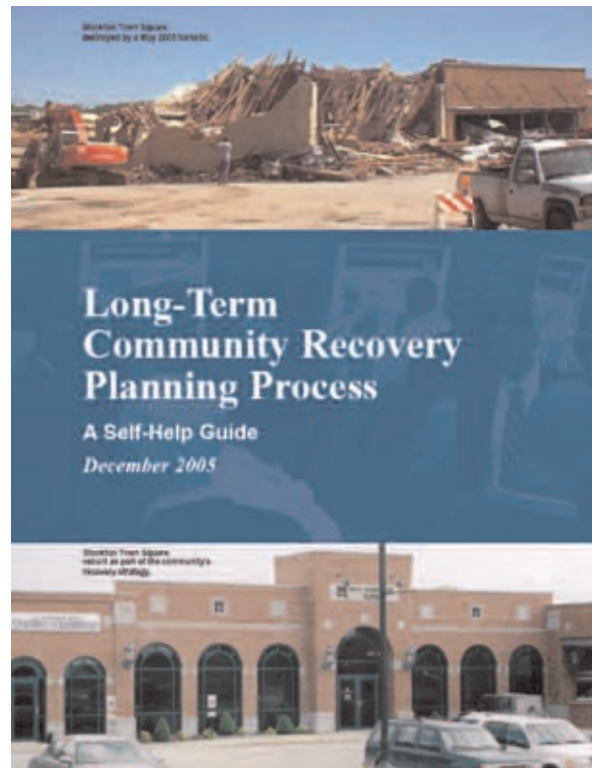
In Cedar Falls and Waterloo, recommended level of assistance included a Technical Advisor to provide intensive, targeted and short-term, on-site recovery guidance; assistance in facilitated workshop support to identify LTR need; and the delivery of an ESF #14 *Long-Term Community Recovery Planning Process: A Self-Help Guide (Self-Help Guide)*. *Self-Help Guide* is a planning and community involvement resource for Cedar Falls and Waterloo to use in ongoing community recovery efforts.

In the case of the *Cedar River Initiative*, LTR provided a Technical Advisor to coordinate existing resources from within the community and available from other recovery professionals involved in the Iowa ESF #14 LTR operations. These resources developed *Tools* and materials especially for the *Cedar River Initiative* that would assist with coordinating project development through hands-on learning opportunities with local partners and potential project champions.

LTR Technical Advisor worked within a Team to organize a Technical Assistance program of facilitated meetings, process development and targeted guidance for *Cedar River Initiative* planning efforts. The result is this *LTR Strategy*, which includes a *WorkPlan* as guidance for ongoing activities.

With input from both local communities, Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG) identified the *Cedar River Initiative* as a focus for ESF #14 LTR support. INRCOG recognized LTR assistance could benefit *Cedar River Initiative*, Cedar Falls and Waterloo, and help create a foundation for a planning process that can add value to other counties in the Cedar River watershed.

During the period of ESF #14 LTR support, three (3) workshops and community meetings were conducted and LTR assisted INRCOG in developing this strategy document the *Cedar River Initiative* committees could use to advance the *Initiative*. This process document will assist *Cedar River Initiative* committees in identifying strategies INRCOG can use to support a twelve- (12) month *WorkPlan* for the *Cedar River Initiative*. LTR supports INRCOG by providing process tools that can be used to support similar efforts in other counties.



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Regent Mill Race, Cedar Falls
From the collection of the Cedar Falls Historical Society

Cedar River INITIATIVE HISTORY

Cedar River Initiative is rooted in past and present planning efforts. *Cedar Valley Lakes Board* formed in 1985, to create a water-oriented, recreation and conservation greenbelt along the Cedar River, brought about by funding and development opportunities created by a significant Federal highway construction project in the metropolitan area. The Board remained active through the 1990s and was instrumental in overseeing the emergence of a high-quality land and water recreation destination while protecting key natural resources. With the completion of the highway program in October 2003, *Cedar Valley Lakes Board* disbanded while other advocacy groups such as the *Cedar Trails Partnership* formed.

In July 2007, Black Hawk County's *Five-Year Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) Plan* was completed. The *Plan* focused on projects specific to possible funding through *REAP* and identified numerous goals, objectives and future initiatives related to the County's natural resources. An important focal point involved the Cedar River.

Over the years, the potential of the Cedar River as an economic development and recreational asset has largely been unrealized. Recent efforts, such as the *River Renaissance* and the *Cedar River Water Trail*, are a step in the right direction in terms of maximizing this resource. Recognizing the vast potential of the river, and to build upon recent successes, discussions relating to the creation of a *Cedar River Authority* may be timely. A holistic approach to managing and marketing the river would benefit not just Black Hawk County but the Cedar Valley as a whole. Said efforts could follow the framework established for the development of the *Cedar Valley Lakes Board*, instrumental in the overall development of trails and the expansion of water-related activities in the 1980s and 90s.

(Pg. 18, *Black Hawk County Five-Year REAP Plan*)

Seizing this opportunity to capitalize on the natural resources initiative, Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG), with the assistance of private and public interests, formed the *Cedar River Initiative* in October 2007. Stakeholder membership includes interested individuals, regional natural resource user groups, technical professionals and staff from several local, State and Federal agencies with connectivity and interests to the Cedar River corridor and its watershed.

The inaugural meeting of the *Cedar River Initiative Board* was held in March 2008. Board and committee meetings continued on a monthly basis until the June 2008 floods.

MISSION

When it formed in 2007, *Cedar River Initiative* stakeholders developed a Mission to guide decision-making. *Cedar River Initiative* Mission is to:

Increase public use and enjoyment of the Cedar River and its watershed, enhance environmental health, cultural heritage and economic development opportunities of this special resource.

Cedar River Initiative Mission was in place at the time of the floods. On October 15, 2008, at the first post-flood *Cedar River Initiative* meeting, stakeholders reviewed and confirmed the Mission and its continued applicability within the context of the disaster. Board and committees reaffirmed the importance of the Mission in guiding the development of goals, objectives, strategies and actions. As work proceeds and additional information is discovered, it may be appropriate to periodically revisit the Mission to ensure its continued appropriateness.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Cedar River Initiative organizational structure is committee-based. Committees are important tools for organizing work, assigning tasks and managing responsibilities so that projects and programs advance. Committees are also opportunities for citizen participation and mechanisms for community input. *Cedar River Initiative* organizes its stakeholders and work around four (4) committees: Infrastructure, Water Quality, Marketing and Advocacy, and Special Projects.

Each committee has a chairperson, who also serves on a Board of Directors. Each committee is designed to accommodate fifteen (15) to twenty (20) stakeholders. Committee membership continues to form as additional stakeholders and resources are identified. In addition to the committee chairpersons, the Board also includes three (3) to four (4) members from each committee.

The role of each committee is as follows:

Infrastructure Committee

Infrastructure Committee focuses on river-related infrastructure needs, including land and water recreational trails, identification of historic features, access points, signage, etc. In addition, the committee reviews park and open space development opportunities, connections of existing water bodies and maintenance-related issues.

Infrastructure Committee may also consider appropriate economic development opportunities, such as commercial and residential development associated with the river.



Marketing and Advocacy Committee Workshop

Water Quality Committee

Water Quality Committee provides insight to the overall quality of the Cedar River, including point source and non-point source pollution issues. Because improving water quality is a generational issue, the committee identifies both short- and long-term actions that focus on tributary, stream and watershed improvements.

Marketing and Advocacy Committee

Marketing and Advocacy Committee develops marketing strategies that articulate and promote the benefits and opportunities of the Cedar River.

It identifies community involvement and input opportunities while assisting in the overall planning process for the river. In addition, this committee promotes and advocates river and river-related projects and issues identified by other *Cedar River Initiative* committees to the appropriate decision-makers at local, State and Federal levels. The committee may also develop fund-raising activities and/or promote special events, such as, clean-up days and festivals.

Special Projects Committee

Special Projects Committee serves as a utilitarian body to champion initiatives that do not fit the primary scope of other *Cedar River Initiative* committees, or that are one- (1) time projects or tasks. For example, studies for evaluating the viability of dredging or removal of low head dams might be a special project and fall under this committee. This committee may also evaluate methods to enhance the overall beauty of the river and comment on design standards to be used for various projects.



Gateway Park, Cedar Falls
Courtesy of INRCOG

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Cedar River Initiative Infrastructure Workshop Committee

Cedar River INITIATIVE **WORKPLAN**

Input from Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG), County and community leaders led to the development of a *WorkPlan* designed for the *Cedar River Initiative*. The intent for the *WorkPlan* is to focus goals and establish a decision-making path for stakeholders. Through this process, it is hoped that increased connectivity and efficiency of resources will be achieved.

It is INRCOG's intent to complete planning activities for the *Cedar River Initiative* within the next twelve (12) months. To achieve this goal, the *Cedar River Initiative* stakeholders need to reconfirm goals and objectives, identify strategic actions, identify a project development process and articulate a specific plan of work and timeline. The following pages work through all of these elements and discuss the value of incorporating discrete steps to the process. This ensures activities that are organized and cohesive.

Cedar River Initiative stakeholder committees were using a *Worksheet* to guide the development of goals and objectives for projects and initiatives identified along the Cedar River corridor. The challenge for *Cedar River Initiative* stakeholders was to create a well-defined project development process to help expedite the progress of tasks and projects. Stakeholders expressed a desire for project development tools that could help them:

- ESF #14 Long-Term Community Recovery (LTCR) staff created three (3) tools:

- Used together, they create a road map to guide project development and implementation.

Goals, objectives, strategies, actions and resources are developed in a consistent and deliberate path. For example:

-
- PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FLOW CHART**
- VISION/ MISSION** (Orange box) → **ISSUE/ NEED/ OPPORTUNITY** (Red box)
- Introduction of Issue/Need/Opportunity
 - Background of Issue/Need/Opportunity
- ISSUE/ NEED/ OPPORTUNITY** → **GOAL (OUTPUT)** (Red box)
- Broad
 - General
 - Non-tangible
 - Identifies Scope
- GOAL (OUTPUT)** → **OBJECTIVE (OUTPUT)** (Red box)
- S.M.A.R.T.
 - Specific
 - Measurable
 - Agreed Upon
 - Reasonable
 - Time Frame
- GOAL (OUTPUT)** → **MILESTONES** (Orange box)
- OBJECTIVE (OUTPUT)** → **STRATEGY (INPUT)** (Red box)
- Identifies Resources
 - Overcomes Challenges
 - Provides Alternatives
 - Creates a Roadmap
- STRATEGY (INPUT)** → **ACTION 1** (White box) → **ACTION 2** (White box) → **ACTION 3** (White box)
- ACTION 3** → **IMPLEMENTATION** (Blue box)
- Inputs Converted to Outcomes
 - Uses Resources
 - Relates to Objective and/or Goal
 - Defines Solutions
 - Sets Accountability
 - Considers Date
- MILESTONES** → **IMPLEMENTATION**
- IMPLEMENTATION** → **VISION/ MISSION** (Dashed line)
- Legend:**
- DIRECT CONNECTION** (Solid arrow)
 - RELATED CONNECTION** (Dashed arrow)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Prior to the flood, each *Cedar River Initiative* committee identified preliminary goals and objectives to address existing issues, challenges and opportunities that are relevant to the committee's specific area of interest. The *WorkPlan* includes review, refinement and confirmation of articulated goals and objectives by each committee. Refinement includes identifying measurements and performance benchmarks that lead to strategies and the identification of actions, cost estimates and timelines.

Preliminary goals are presented below for each *Cedar River Initiative* Committee. (Specific objectives for each goal are outlined in the *WorkPlan Worksheets* found in the *Appendix*.)

Infrastructure

- Bring more positive attention to the river with a focus on central Cedar Valley and its recreational and cultural opportunities through various infrastructure improvements.
- Evaluate and utilize best practices relating to the floodplain and associated development.
- Assess and maximize utilization and development of natural and man-made resources.
- Encourage private sector development along Cedar River.
- Bring all interests and local, State and national regulatory agencies together to identify opportunities and solutions to barriers.

Water Quality

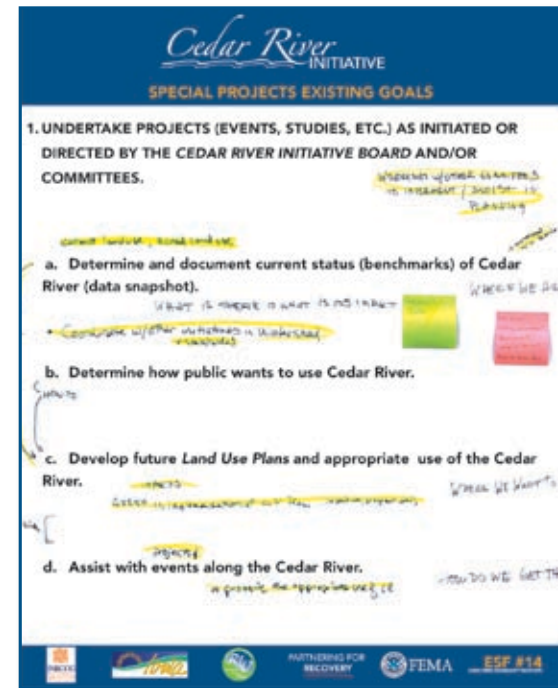
- Improve water quality to meet standards of *Clean Water Act*.

Marketing and Advocacy

- Build coalition of support and advocacy for the Cedar River.
- Make the Cedar River a "top-of-mind" destination.

Special Projects

- Undertake projects (events, studies, etc.) as initiated or directed by the *Cedar River Initiative* Board and/or committees.

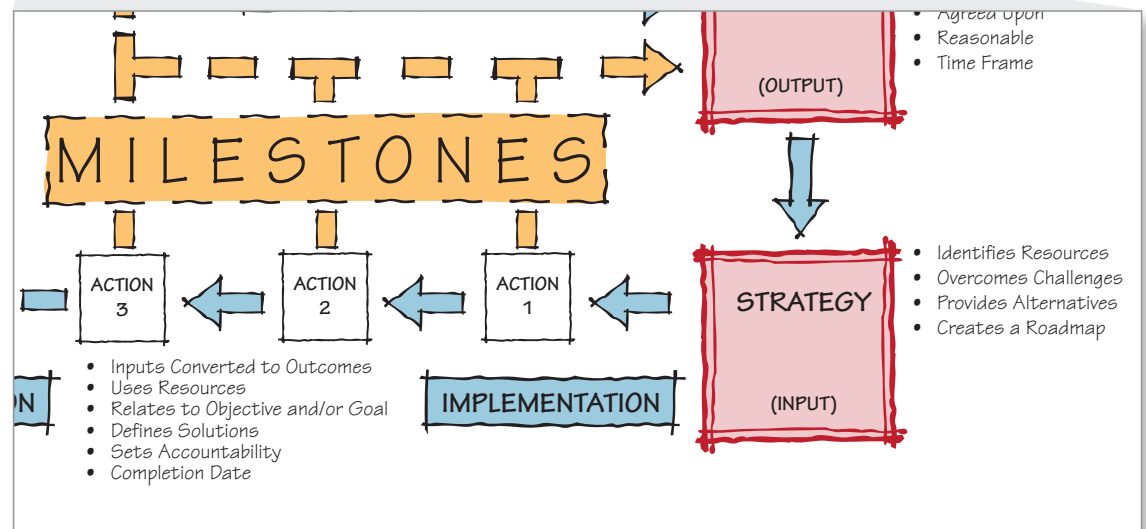
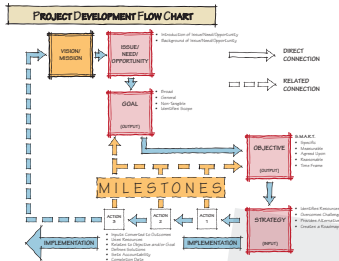


Examples of special projects identified by committee members at recent Workshops facilitated by ESF #14 Technical Advisor

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Because the four (4) *Cedar River Initiative* committees developed goals and objectives specific to individual committee-defined areas of interest prior to the flood, ESF #14 LTRC staff suggested committee members reconfirm the goals and objectives, taking the effects of disaster into account. ESF #14 staff in partnership with INRCOG, created an exercise asking *Cedar River Initiative* committee members to use potential strategies that could carry an objective through multiple options using the *FlowChart* to identify best courses of action. The process was intended to identify and provide visibility to the absence of identified and articulated strategies, enhancing participant understanding of the importance of strategies in project development and implementation. Well-articulated strategies and well-defined development processes ensure important and appropriate connections that benefit project development and implementation. Initiatives and action steps can be linked with other recovery and ongoing development efforts, increasing project value to prospective Federal, State, nonprofit and private sector funding sources.

Well-articulated strategies and well-defined development processes also aid in the identification of challenges to success and the creation of solutions to overcome them.



Strategies, along with specific Actions indicate how Goals and Objectives are achieved in ways that support Mission integrity (or Vision)

PROJECT (AND PROGRAM) DEVELOPMENT GUIDE (PDG)

Another tool developed by ESF #14 LTCR staff to support Iowa recovery is the *Project (and Program) Development Guide (PDG)*. The *PDG* is series of questions that focus discussion and information gathering so that projects can be evaluated. *PDG* takes users through the process of linking projects to other projects, groups and related community and regional initiatives making them more attractive to prospective funding resources. INRCOG asked LTCR to hold a *PDG Workshop* to provide hands on experience with the *Tool*. This meeting, *WorkShop #3*, is detailed on page 34.

From the second committee meeting, INRCOG selected the *Nature Valley Trail Bridges* project to workshop using the *PDG*. Two (2) bridges heavily damaged as a result of the flood event — an Evansdale, Iowa bridge and McFarlane Park bridge located in the southern part of Black Hawk County — are part of the *Nature Valley Trail Bridges* project. These damaged bridges connect multiple communities on opposite sides of the Cedar River through narrow, filled-arch recreational bridges. The trails system is embraced by other communities outside its original fifty-four (54) mile path and has grown to approximately one hundred fifty (150) miles from Black Hawk County to south of Cedar Rapids in Linn County.

Through the use of the *PDG*, attendees identified the importance of the bridges to the many groups they serve. Participants discussed the opportunities that were possible by understanding the relationship of the bridges to many lifestyle activities. From joggers and bikers to the connections to recreational parks, RV parks

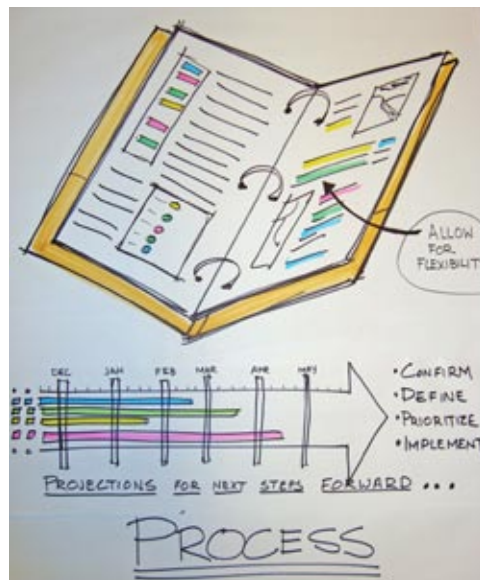
and riverfront access points located along the trails, the bridges are an important part of community life. An important outcome of the exercise was greater visibility on the role the bridges play in area economies and other community sectors.

By utilizing the *PDG* in a *WorkShop* activity, stakeholders were able to critically evaluate phasing and a temporary floating bridge against the challenges of flash flooding, high winds and water velocity. Clear direction of next steps resulted.

Going forward, as with the *Project Development FlowChart*, specific programs or projects that can benefit from this *Tool* will be identified by INRCOG and *Cedar River Initiative* committee chairs.

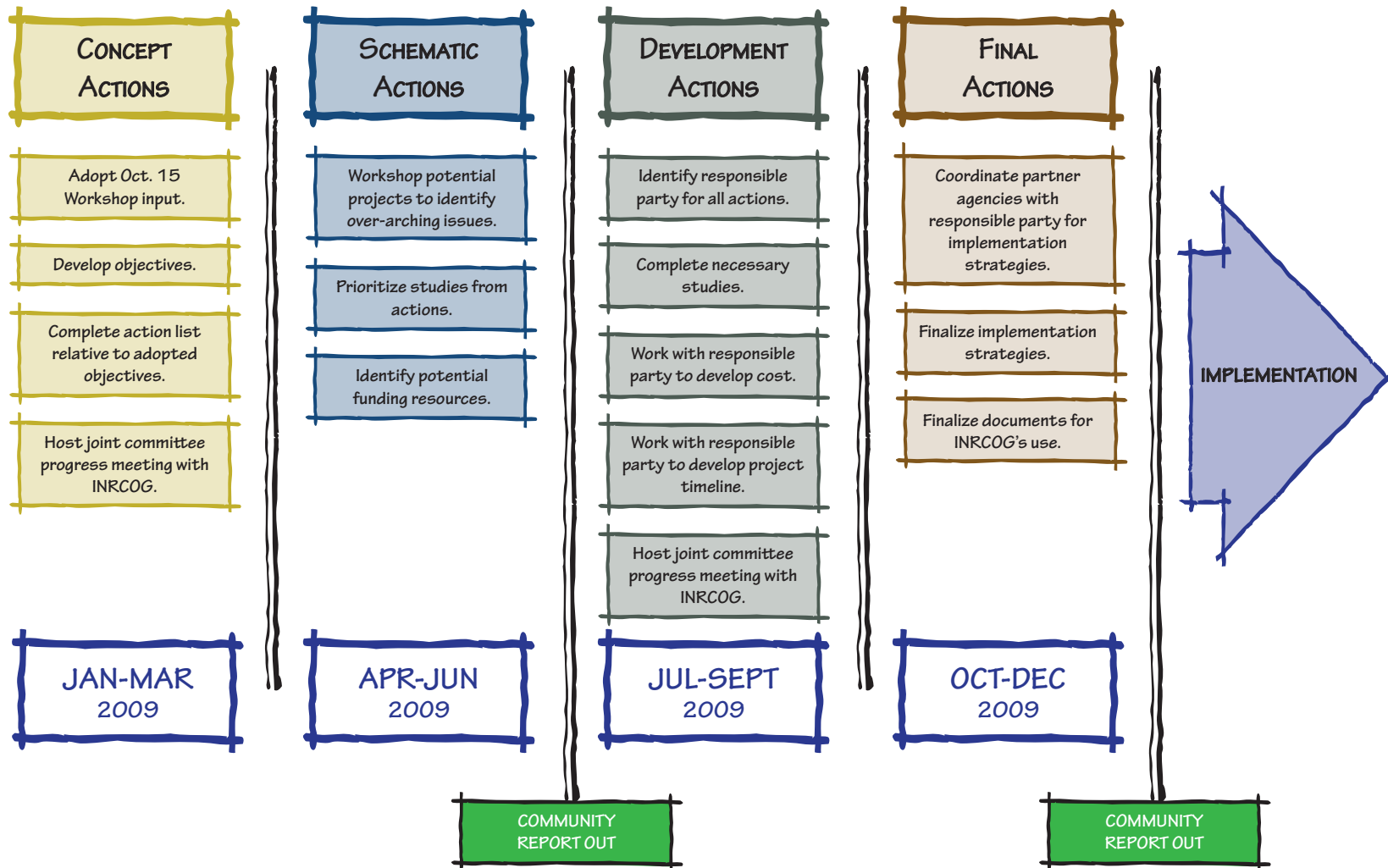
GENERAL WORKPLAN

ESF #14 LTCR in partnership with INRCOG formulated the graphic on the next page to identify critical milestones specific to a *Cedar River Initiative* Project Management Strategy. The graphic as populated represents the plan of work (*Cedar River Initiative General WorkPlan*) needed to meet the self-imposed twelve- (12) month deadline. Tasks are identified quarterly and committees report to INRCOG on a routine basis. A similar *WorkPlan Template* will be utilized by individual committees as an internal planning tool for their efforts.



Conceptual process images created for community meetings

CEDAR RIVER INITIATIVE GENERAL WORKPLAN

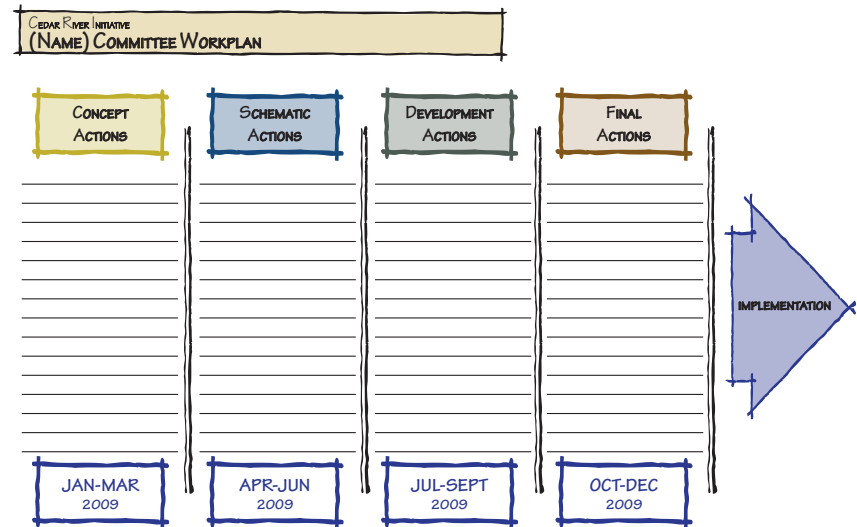
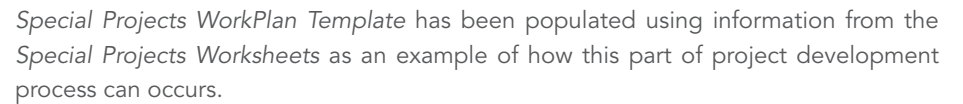


Worksheets are utilized by the Cedar River Initiative committees to organize information. Going forward, the work of each Cedar River Initiative committee — Infrastructure, Water Quality, Marketing and Advocacy and Special Projects — will be to populate and continually update a *WorkPlan Template* using information captured within *Worksheets* developed by each committee as its work progresses. Once populated, tasks and activities needed to meet the twelve- (12) month deadline will be articulated and visually defined as a *Cedar River Initiative Committee WorkPlan*, creating a timeline against which individual tasks and the project overall will advance.

CEDAR RIVER INITIATIVE
SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

CONCEPT ACTIONS	SCHEMATIC ACTIONS	DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS	FINAL ACTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and compile history of Cedar River with a focus on land use, usage and water quality. Tour Cedar River with CRI board and committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide GIS compilation map of existing land use. Get input from IOWATER organization. Determine appropriate use of low head dams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop design standards and review committee. Develop a process for emergency coordination, communication and general river information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document current land use maps and how they impact the Cedar River and its watershed.
JAN-MAR 2009	APR-JUN 2009	JUL-SEPT 2009	OCT-DEC 2009
PUBLIC INPUT/DESIGN CHALKETTE WORKSHOP			PUBLIC MEETING/REPORT OUT

IMPLEMENTATION



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ESF #14
LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: COLLABORATION + CONNECTIVITY

Community involvement is a cornerstone of ESF #14 Long-Term Community Recovery (LTCR). Citizen participation establishes shared goals and unity of purpose, informs community-planning processes and affirms forward direction. Community participation also ensures transparency of communications, setting the stage for collaboration and enhanced community connectivity. The ESF #14 LTCR model mirrors best planning practices by encouraging a broad and ongoing public input component in recovery and other community development initiatives.

In partnership with Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) and Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG), ESF #14 LTCR convened three (3) strategic meetings specific to the *Cedar River Initiative*.



COMMITTEE MEETING # 1

WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 15

Bringing members of the four (4) *Cedar River Initiative* committees together for the first time following the flood, this initial meeting set the stage for *Cedar River Initiative* to reconvene. It began a coordinated and collaborative conversation between *Cedar River Initiative* committee leadership and members. The meeting was open to those who represent other groups in the community with related or similar interests — some of which organized in response to the flood event — providing an opportunity to share information and discuss common or similar purpose. *North Cedar Falls Visioning Committee* and the *North Shore Boat Club* were additional groups represented.

A brief progress report from the each *Cedar River Initiative* committee provided updates on initiatives and progress achieved prior to the flood. Committees met separately to confirm issues, identify changes, opportunities or new issues surfaced as a result of the flood.

Those in attendance realized individual committee efforts could collectively benefit the overall Mission of *Cedar River Initiative*. Many committee-specific objectives overlap and link to one another. Participants also realized State and county efforts offer opportunities for collaboration and leveraging throughout the recovery process. Additional information, objectives and actions identified at the *Workshop* are included in the twelve- (12) month *WorkPlan* (see *Appendix*).

Looking forward, committee members recognized the importance of scheduling meetings as a group, in addition to individual committee meetings. Ongoing collaboration between committees will help ensure unity of mission focus and integrity.



Cedar River Initiative Infrastructure Committee



Cedar River Initiative Water Quality Committee



Cedar River Initiative Special Projects Committee

COMMITTEE MEETING # 2

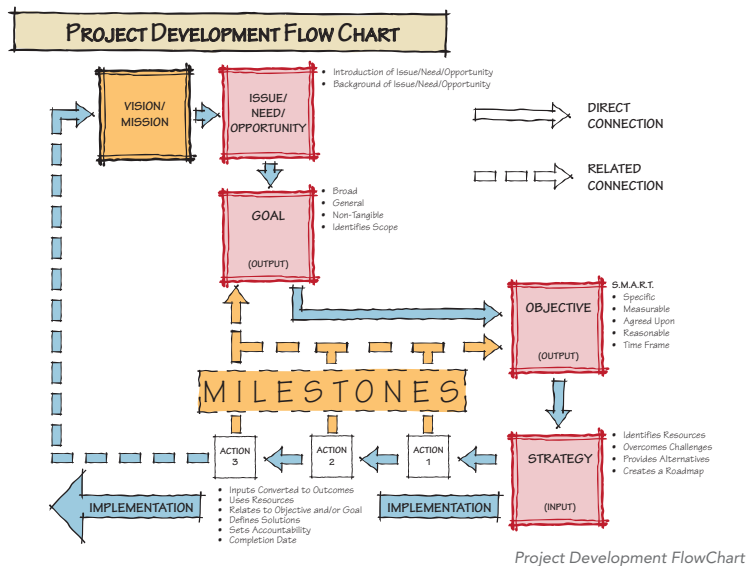
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FLOWCHART AND WORKPLAN WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 6

As work progressed, it became evident that identifying and developing strategies could enhance individual committee efforts that support the Cedar River Initiative Mission.

The second meeting focused on the need for a common Vision and/or Mission and addressed the importance of identifying strategies needed to successfully achieve goals and outcomes that support the Vision or Mission. Committee members reviewed and confirmed the existing Cedar River Initiative Mission.

Project Development FlowChart and WorkPlan timeline created especially for the Cedar River Initiative demonstrated a need to call-out specific strategies to ensure projects progress. Strategies help maintain focus on the Mission and hoped for outcomes when executing tasks. Strategies are also important for overcoming challenges.



As a result of the *Workshop*, committee members increased their skills, becoming better equipped to assist INRCOG in identifying important and mission-specific strategies to reach common goals. Populating the *WorkPlan* with strategies will help INRCOG with project management and the planning process.



Community Meeting information boards



COMMITTEE MEETING # 3

PROJECT (AND PROGRAM) DEVELOPMENT GUIDE (PDG) WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 13

The final meeting with Cedar River Initiative served a dual purpose. It began the process that transitions ESF #14 LTCR support to INRCOG and Cedar River Initiative stakeholders. This meeting was also used to workshop recovery tools created by Iowa ESF #14 LTCR Teams, with attendees.

At the request of INRCOG, ESF #14 LTCR staff conducted an exercise developing a recovery project within Black Hawk County using the PDG to demonstrate the value of using the Tool. The Nature Valley Trail Bridges (Bridges), damaged in the 2008 floods, was chosen as the project exercise.

Attendees divided into small groups to workshop the Bridges using the PDG. Groups worked through questions on the PDG and reported to larger group at the end of the exercise. The exercise demonstrated how the PDG aids in identifying linkages to other projects, groups and planning efforts, and determining project value and priority when establishing implementation strategies and timelines (see Appendix). Committee chairs gained knowledge and experience in the use of the PDG, becoming better equipped to provide organized and comprehensive information for INRCOG's use in the formulation of potential grant applications.

ESF #14 LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY PROJECT AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GUIDE	
COMMUNITY	Black Hawk County
PROJECT NAME	Nature Valley Trail Bridges (2)
SECTOR	Infrastructure
PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Include Disaster Impacts Associated with the Project)	Two critical bridges of infrastructure, Cedar River (Evansdale) and McFarlane (McFarlane Park). The bridges were a total loss in the flood of '08.
LOCAL COMMUNITY CONTACT	Steve Brehmer, INRCOG Transportation, INRCOG Representative
CONTACT INFORMATION	319.235.8311, info@inrcog.org
COMMUNITY VISION CIR Mission - Increase the public's use and enjoyment of the Cedar River and its watershed and enhance the environmental health, cultural heritage and economic development opportunities of this special resource. CIR Identifier Project Rationale: Through the use of the Nature Valley Trail System, multiple communities are linked together and can enjoy the amenities each has to offer.	
KEY FACTS Background (Include Disaster Impacts Associated with the Project). The original design and construction of the trails began in the 1970s with an initial 54 miles of trails. The two damaged bridges are in Black Hawk county (1 in Evansdale and the other at McFarlane Park). The bridges were a total loss in the flood of '08. <input type="checkbox"/> Project Type (Program, Process, Capital Project, Etc.) (Detailed to Differentiate from "Scope of Work" Below). <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation trails and economic stimulus. How This Project Fits with the COMMUNITY VISION. Increases the quality of life, literally bridges multiple communities together and promotes better health through recreation opportunities.	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION <input type="checkbox"/> Scope of Work: Program Requirements; Physical Attributes (If Applicable) Such as: Dimensions, Property Description, Volume, Acquisition of Property, Site Control, Etc. The two filled arch bridges along the trail within Black Hawk County have suffered catastrophic damage. These bridges will need to be replaced in order to return the trail system to its pre-flood level of use. <input type="checkbox"/> Project Benefits: How Does the Project: Stimulate the Community's Economy or Create Economic Opportunities? Tourism, RV vacationers and Park Amenities: Recreational users gain access to other downtown areas. Restore Recovery Activity? Through the replacement of these bridges, the communities that rely on this amenity will gain through the replacement of these bridges, the communities that rely on this amenity will gain through the replacement of these bridges, the communities that rely on this amenity will gain through the replacement of these bridges. Provide Linkages or Connectivity to Other Projects, Centers or Resources? These trails link communities from Black Hawk County to Low and Benton counties, beyond Cedar Rapids. The amount of usage this trail gains makes it important to several sectors for recovery: Economic, infrastructure, floodplain and hazard mitigation, housing and public health. <input type="checkbox"/> Should the Community as a Whole: Increase quality of life, health and provides a valuable recreational amenity to the Community? Contribute to the Community's Quality of Life? See above. <input type="checkbox"/> What are Alternative Options for this Project? Why is This Option/Alternative Chosen? Options are to replace and to remove existing bridges if feasible, and to increase the function to serve as an emergency access route in flood and severe storm situations. Alternatives might include the use of a floating bridge.	

Project (and Program) Development Guide (PDG)

Going forward, specific programs or projects that can benefit from the application of this Tool will be identified by INRCOG and Cedar River Initiative committee chairs. Committee chairs will convene PDG workshops within individual committees to build capacity in Tool use for specific project development.

Several ESF #14 LTCR Teams in Iowa produced multiple administrative, technical and graphical tools to assist field activities. ESF #14 LTCR leadership recognized many of these tools could benefit other communities with long-term recovery efforts. A tool identified by ESF #14 LTCR that could benefit Cedar River Initiative efforts was the Project (and Program) Development Guide (PDG). PDG leads project development staff through a series of questions to help the user collect information needed to advance a project. Multiple options are identified and next-step strategies are considered to ensure forward movement. At the end of the process users have the data needed to match projects with prospective funding sources and those that can provide needed technical assistance. The information collected is also the same kind of information needed for the completion of grant or funding applications.

KEY FACTS

- Background (Include Disaster Impacts Associated with the Project). **The original design and construction of the trails began in the 1970s with an initial 54 miles of trails. The two damaged bridges are in Black Hawk county (1 in Evansdale and the other at McFarlane Park). The bridges were a total loss in the flood of '08.**
- ☐ Project Type (Program, Process, Capital Project, Etc.) (Detailed to Differentiate from "Scope of Work" Below). **Recreation trails and economic stimulus.**
 - ☐ How This Project Fits with the COMMUNITY VISION. **Increases the quality of life, literally bridges multiple communities together and promotes better health through recreation opportunities.**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- ☐ Scope of Work: Program Requirements; Physical Attributes (if Applicable) Such as: Dimensions, Property Description, Volume, Acquisition of Property, Site Control, Etc. **The two filled arch bridges along the trail within Black Hawk County have suffered catastrophic damage. These bridges will need to be replaced in order to return the trail system to its pre-flood level of use.**
- ☐ Project Benefits: How Does the Project:
 - Stimulate the Community's Economy or Create Economic Opportunities? **Tourism, RV vacationers and Park Amenities: Recreational users gain access to other downtown areas.**

IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTIVITY

Project Development FlowChart and the *Project (and Program) Development Guide* encourage linkages to other recovery projects in the community, the work of other groups and connectivity to Federal and State resources. Resources are programs, technical assistance, incentives or funding that can be used to carry out specific strategies and actions. Resources can be internal to the *Cedar River Initiative* committee; technical subject-matter experts who are committee members are an example. They can also be external to potential champions or supporters, such as outside funding sources.

It is important for the *Cedar River Initiative* to maintain connectivity with two (2) significant resources: *North Cedar Falls Visioning Committee* and *Waterloo River Renaissance*. With common interests, there are opportunities to share resources and reduce duplicative effort. Connectivity helps to maintain project and process across groups and collaborative leadership is more likely.

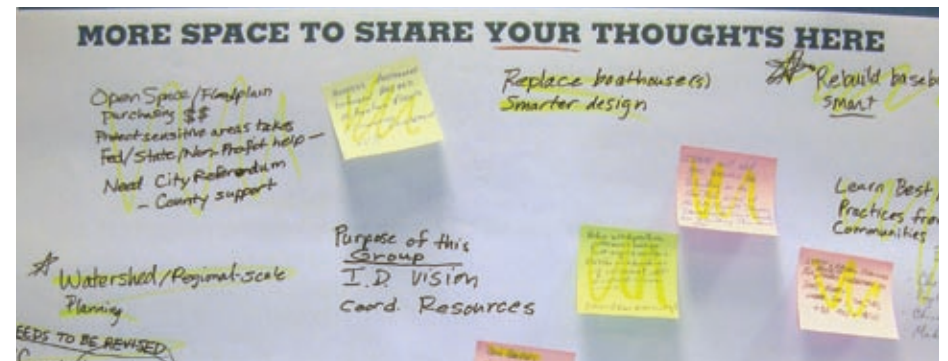
North Cedar Falls Visioning Committee

Formed by Mayor Crews of Cedar Falls after the Flood of 2008, the committee's purpose is to "recommend to the Cedar Falls City Council a proposed 'vision' for the reuse and redevelopment of Northern Cedar Falls. The committee's recommendations can be utilized by a planning consultant to prepare land use and infrastructure development plans as part of a *River Corridor Redevelopment Master Plan*." (Source: *North Cedar Vision Committee Summary Report*, September 17, 2008.) This planning process addresses immediate issues that can also have an impact on long-term community recovery.

Waterloo Riverfront Renaissance

City of Waterloo *Riverfront Renaissance* is a plan to revitalize and redevelop downtown Waterloo over a five- (5) year period. It envisions significant renovations and developments, including pedestrian trails, a plaza and amphitheater area, the *Cedar River Water Trail*, various interpretive exhibits, improvements to the Park Avenue dam, a river walk along the Cedar River, various aesthetic treatments to the flood protection

system and several other additions and developments. After the Flood of 2008, the progression of this *Plan* was slightly altered and implementation goals were amended. *Riverfront Renaissance Plan* is vital to the *Cedar River Initiative*. It serves as a model for best practices and provides lessons learned. The *Plan* adds value and informs the community about development and redevelopment opportunities along the Cedar River to reduce the impacts of future flooding.



Input from Cedar River Initiative Infrastructure Workshop Committee

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NEXT STEPS

This report presents an overall framework for long-term recovery project development for a community. Information in this document and the planning tools provided through the ESF #14 Long-Term Community Recovery (LTCR) community engagement process support INRCOG planning strategies to help ensure an effective and coordinated *Cedar River Initiative* planning effort continuing over the next twelve (12) months.

Next Steps to achieve planning strategies:

- Committees formally adopt information formulated from the October 15 *Workshop* (see *Appendix*).
- Committees populate *WorkPlan Templates* at regular meetings or in *Workshops* to establish timelines for INRCOG *Project Management Strategies*.
- INRCOG populates and distributes a *General WorkPlan* that summarizes overall *Cedar River Initiatives'* effort which identifies issues and develops strategies and action steps.
- Committees workshop potential projects utilizing the tools provided to identify issues and develop strategies and action steps to address.
- Committees utilize the provided *ESF #14 LTCR Resource Guide* to identify potential technical assistance and funding resources for priority projects.
- INRCOG and *Cedar River Initiative* committees provide documented planning process(es) to those responsible for implementation.

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FEMA

Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG)

Cedar River Initiative Stakeholders

Citizens' Visioning Committee for the Reuse and Redevelopment of Northern Cedar Falls

University of Iowa Institute of Public Affairs

Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO)

State of Iowa

City of Waterloo

City of Cedar Falls

Contributors:

Bob Neymeyer, Grout Museum of History & Science

Kevin Blanshan, Iowa Northland Regional Council of Government (INRCOG)

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APPENDIX

Project Development FlowChart

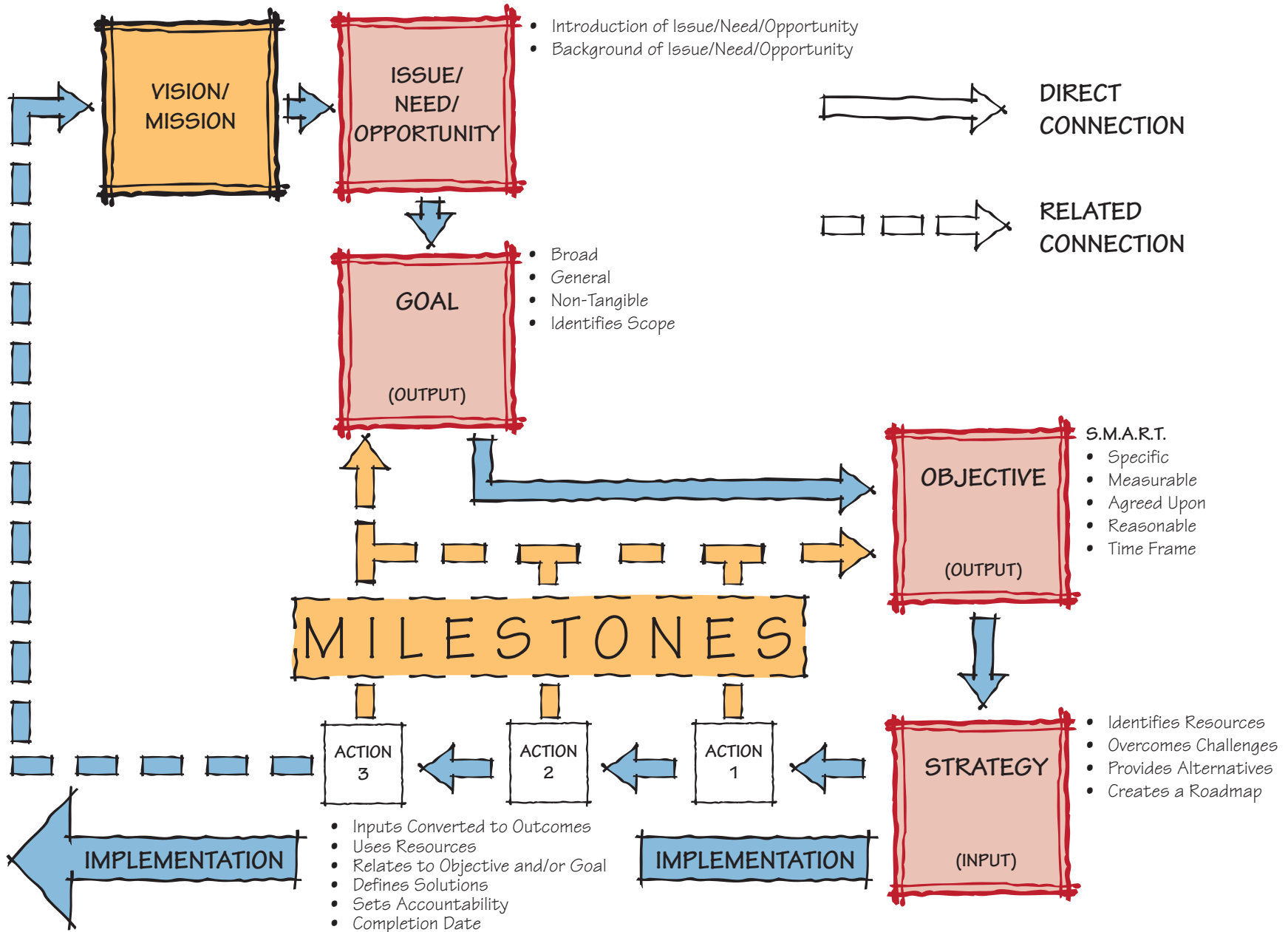
*Nature Valley Trail Bridges
Program and Project
Development Guide*

WorkPlan Templates


*Cedar River Initiative Plan
Worksheets*

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PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FLOW CHART



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	<p>ESF #14 LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY PROJECT AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GUIDE</p>	<p>ESF #14 <small>LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY</small></p>						
<p>COMMUNITY <i>Black Hawk County</i></p>								
<p>PROJECT NAME <i>Nature Valley Trail Bridges (2)</i></p>								
<p>SECTOR <i>Infrastructure</i></p>								
<p>PROJECT SPONSOR (Organization Type) <i>Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments - Cedar River Initiative</i></p>								
<p>LOCAL COMMUNITY CONTACT <i>Kevin Blanshan INRCOG Transportation INRCOG Representative</i></p>								
<p>CONTACT INFORMATION</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;">Name</td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;">Title</td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;">Role in LTCR</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><i>319.235.0311</i></td> <td style="border: none;"><i>kblanshan@inrcog.org</i></td> <td style="border: none;"></td> </tr> </table>			Name	Title	Role in LTCR	<i>319.235.0311</i>	<i>kblanshan@inrcog.org</i>	
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<i>319.235.0311</i>	<i>kblanshan@inrcog.org</i>							
<p>COMMUNITY VISION</p> <p><i>CRI Mission – Increase the public’s use and enjoyment of the Cedar River and its watershed and enhance the environmental health, and cultural heritage and economic development opportunities of this special resource.</i></p> <p><i>CRI- identified Project Positioning: Through the use of the Nature Valley Trail System, multiple communities are linked together and can enjoy the amenities each has to offer.</i></p>								
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- ☐ Identify Project Development and Implementation Timeframe(s). *The planning and funding of this project will take at least a year. The construction will take up to two years.*

PROJECT IMPACT

- ☐ Describe Impacted Populations (Demographics).
An estimated 1 million users access the trail system in a year's time.

IMPORTANCE FOR RECOVERY

- ☐ Is the Project a Long-Term Community Recovery (LTCR) or General Recovery Project? *Long-Term*
- ☐ How Would the Project Help Achieve the Community's Post-Disaster Community Vision?
It would be evidence of forward motion through recovery and reconnect communities that were not directly affected by the floods to Black Hawk County. Black Hawk County Communities are still interested in "Bridging the Gap" between themselves.
- ☐ How Does the Project Support Community Sustainability? (e.g., Does it Include Efficient Use of Energy, Land and Natural Resources?)
It promotes the use and education of available outdoor resources.
- ☐ How Does the Project Leverage LTCR (or General Recovery), Facilitating Recovery Beyond Meeting Its Own Goals?
Not only does it promote the use of its infrastructure, it provides an avenue for other communities to grow economically through increased tourism and visitors. The trails system is also embraced by other communities outside its original 54 mile path and has been extended by them through their own efforts.
- ☐ How Does the Project Incorporate Best Practices for Reducing Loss in the Future Due to Disasters?
Upon reconstruction, a different construction type can be utilized to reduce the threat of loss due to flood.
- ☐ How Does the Project Build Community Capacity (Ability to Meet Community Needs Efficiently and Effectively)?
It will restore a well know recreation destination that serves the community, contributes to its quality of life and economic vitality. This has the potential to reduce the added personal and community stress due to the flood.
- ☐ Describe Geographic Area of Impact.
Black Hawk County through Benton County and beyond Cedar Rapids (Linn County).
- ☐ Is This Project Part of a Multi-Agency Project? Are There Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) Between Multiple Organizations?
No; just Black Hawk County.
- ☐ Is This Project a Prerequisite for Any Other Projects? *The repair of this project is critical for planned extensions, additions and hard surface projects to be successful.*

FEASIBILITY

- ☐ Does This Project Have Any Prerequisites?
Yes, planning, funding, etc.
- ☐ Does Project Require Multiple Resource Partners (Technical Assistance, Funding Resources, Etc.)? Include Contact Information if Known.
Yes
- ☐ How is Community Support Documented (e.g., Has a Resolution of Support Been Passed? What Community Organizations Support the Effort? What Governing Bodies? Etc.)?
Community support has not yet been documented.
- ☐ Does the Project Have a Champion? If Yes, Who Will Carry This Project Forward (Person and Contact Information)?
Multiple agencies (i.e. Chamber, Tourism Bureau, end users, local governments, etc.).
- ☐ Does the Community Have the Workforce and Resources to Sustain the Project?
Yes; it is used by nearly 1 million persons a year. A few of the resources that support this project are the Tourism Board, Chamber of Commerce and City Officials.
- ☐ Is Project Feasible (High, Moderate, Low Likelihood of Becoming a Reality)? For Example, Does the Project Have Any Fatal Flaws or Major Hurdles?
Highly Feasible.

PHASING

- ☐ Are There Phasing Opportunities for the Project? If Yes, Identify.
A floating bridge was discussed, but due to flash flooding and high winds was ruled out. No other phasing opportunities have been identified.
- ☐ If Phasing Has Begun, Identify Start Date and Provide a Brief Description of What's Been Done So Far.
N/A
- ☐ Is the Project Achievable (Within a 3 - 5 Year Recovery Timeline)?
Yes

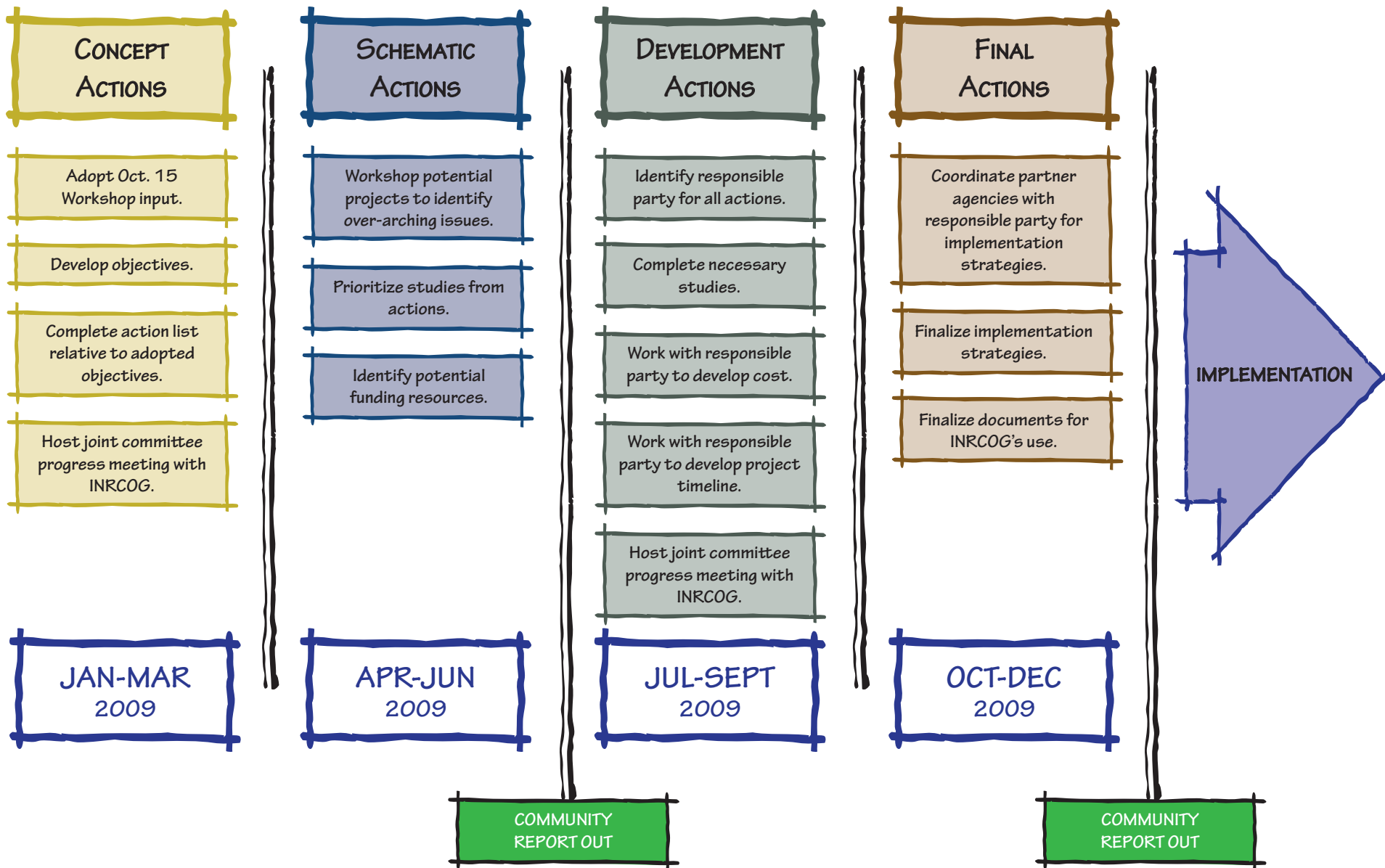
COST ESTIMATE/FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ☐ Anticipated Project Costs (Use attached spreadsheet).
At this time, it is unclear if FEMA Public Assistance has obligated replacement funds. The County is waiting for FEMA's assessments to be completed.
- ☐ What Prospective Funding and/or Other Resources are Available to Develop and Implement the Project?
FEMA Public Assistance grant, Federal and State mitigation funding, Army Corp of Engineers.
- ☐ What Other Funding is Committed?
- ☐ What Other Funding has been Expended?
- ☐ ***Demolition and debris costs from the County.***
- ☐ Identify a Detailed Operational Budget (Attach a Separate Page if Necessary).
Unknown at this time
- ☐ Identify Any Funding Gaps.
- ☐ ***Additional costs should the bridges have to be raised to a higher elevation.***
- ☐ If Funding Gaps Exist, What are the Likely Sources of Funding?
Mitigation funds.

FORWARD ACTION/NEXT STEPS

- ☐ Who Else Does This Project Impact and What Other Groups Might Impact This Project?
Children, Scouts, Elderly, etc.
- ☐ What are the Next Steps to Connecting the Project to Other Initiatives in the Community?
To the Community as a Whole?
Considering how this could impact the growth of the North Cedar Falls area in regard to their Visioning effort.
- Consider how the replacement of these bridges affects mitigation and floodplain efforts.***

CEDAR RIVER INITIATIVE GENERAL WORKPLAN



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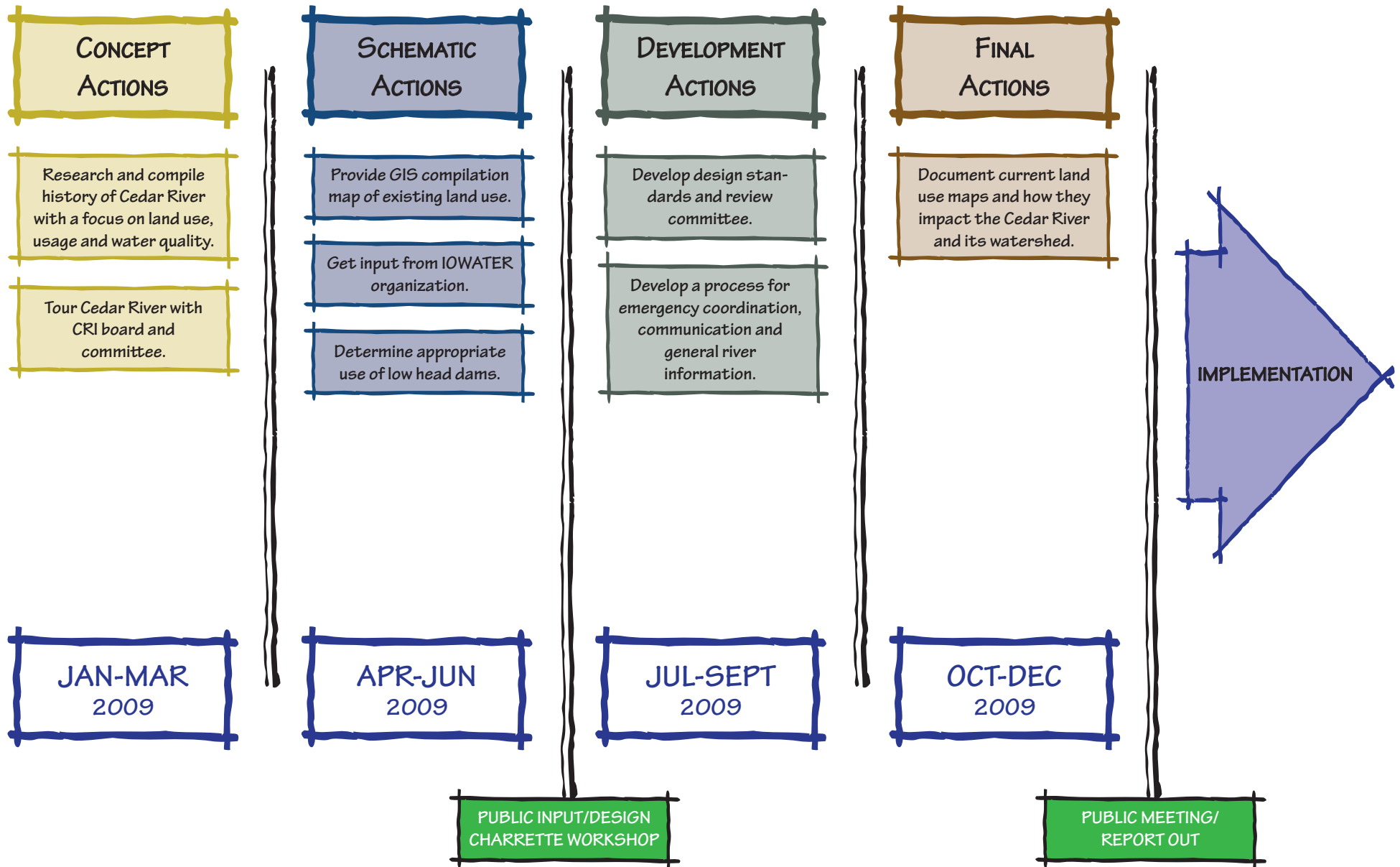


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LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY




SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE WORKPLAN



CEDAR RIVER INITIATIVE
(NAME) COMMITTEE WORKPLAN


CONCEPT ACTIONS



SCHEMATIC
ACTIONS

DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS

FINAL ACTIONS



IMPLEMENTATION

JAN-MAR
2009

APR-JUN
2009

JUL-SEPT
2009

OCT-DEC
2009



PLAN WORKSHEET

COMMITTEE: Marketing & Advocacy

GOAL: Build Coalition of Support & Advocacy for Cedar River

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST TO COMPLETE	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify, engage <i>and support</i> Cedar River User Groups (<i>North Shore Boat Club</i>). ➤ Educate Public about Cedar River, i.e., water quality, history, <i>prairie pathways</i>. (<i>History overlay in Special Projects, too.</i>) ➤ Develop appropriate and effective public outreach programs. ➤ Identify funding sources for Cedar River Projects. ➤ <i>Advocate for the creation of</i> incentives to encourage sustainable private development <i>within prescribed guidelines</i> along the river. (<i>Do we limit to private only? Public-Private? DNR, County Conservation?</i>) ➤ <i>Research "Best Practices" regarding development and building on the Cedar River. (Part of Infrastructure?)</i> 				

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LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY





PLAN WORKSHEET

COMMITTEE: Marketing & Advocacy

GOAL: Make the Cedar River a “Top of Mind” Destination

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST TO COMPLETE	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop coordinated Marketing Strategy to promote the Cedar River <i>to local, State and regional audiences.</i> ➤ Encourage creation of “WOW” Events <i>through the creation of new events or the enhancement of present events. (Execute through CVB’s?)</i> ➤ Expand/<i>enhance</i> activities on or near the Cedar River. <i>(How do you coordinate w/ other groups/initiatives? i.e. downtowns, silos, etc.)</i> ➤ Increase use and enjoyment of Cedar River by local residents ➤ <i>Develop an inclusive brand for public and private use(s). (Are there smaller brands. i.e. Cedar River Corridor, Cedar River Trailways, etc.?)</i> ➤ <i>Promote existing and develop new amenities to enhance the Cedar River experience.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify targeted audiences at the local, state and regional (Midwest) level. ➤ Develop annually at least one winter event and one summer event. ➤ Develop a comprehensive list of existing events/activities. 	<p>Tourism/Convention Bureaus, Main Street, GCVA, others.</p> <p>Tourism/Convention Bureaus, Main Street, GCVA, others.</p> <p>Tourism/Convention Bureaus, Main Street, GCVA, others.</p>		

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ESF #14
LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY



Cedar River INITIATIVE

SPECIAL PROJECTS

PLAN WORKSHEET

COMMITTEE: Special Projects

GOAL: Undertake Projects (events, studies, etc.) as initiated or directed by the Cedar River Initiative Board and/or Committees

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST TO COMPLETE	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Determine and document current status (Benchmarks) of Cedar River <i>watershed within Black Hawk County</i> (Data Snapshot). ➤ Determine how public wants to use Cedar River. ➤ Develop future land use plans and appropriate use of the Cedar River. ➤ Assist with <i>projects, incentives, programs and events</i> along the Cedar River <i>to promote the appropriate use of the river.</i> ➤ <i>Document current land use maps to identify potential impacts on the Cedar River and its watershed.</i> ➤ <i>Develop a process for emergency coordination, communication and general river information.</i> ➤ <i>Work with projects of tributaries (i.e. Dry RunCreek, Black Hawk Creek.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide compilation of existing land use via GIS. ➤ Get input from Iowater Organization (and others). ➤ Research and compile history of Cedar River with a focus on land use, usage and water quality. ➤ <i>Coordinate with other initiatives and stakeholders in watershed and planning.</i> ➤ Facilitate a series of public input meetings and design charrettes/workshops. ➤ Review future comprehensive land use plans and make revisions/updates specific to land use adjacent to the Cedar River. ➤ Determine appropriate use of low head dams. ➤ Develop Design Standards and Review Committee. ➤ Tour Cedar River with CRI Board and Committees. ➤ Complete expansion of Brinker Lake. ➤ Celebrate 100th mile of Trails. ➤ Work with Marketing Committee where appropriate. 	INRCOG		

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ESF #14
LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY



Cedar River INITIATIVE

INFRASTRUCTURE

PLAN WORKSHEET

COMMITTEE: Infrastructure

GOAL: *Bring more positive attention to the river with a focus on central Cedar Valley and its recreational and cultural opportunities through various infrastructure improvements*

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST TO COMPLETE	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop whitewater facilities. ➤ Continued development and expansion of water trail opportunities. ➤ <i>Reduce silt deposits on public access areas at boat ramps and sand bars.</i> ➤ <i>Provide an abundance of conveniently, well-maintained access areas along riverfront.</i> ➤ Reduce hazards at dams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Secure funding for final design of whitewater course near Gateway Park in Cedar Falls and in downtown Waterloo. ➤ Utilize an inclusive public input process on determining the most appropriate design for each location. ➤ Pursue funding to implement the respective designs. ➤ Complete Cedar River Water Trail including the portages around the low-head dams. ➤ Perform a comprehensive study of the impact on recreation and the environment of removing low-head dams. 	<p>Local jurisdictions, INRCOG.</p> <p>Local jurisdictions and consultant.</p> <p>Local jurisdictions, INRCOG.</p> <p>Waterloo, Cedar Falls and Black Hawk County Conservation Board.</p>		

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ESF #14
LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY





GOAL: *Bring more positive attention to the river with a focus on central Cedar Valley and its recreational and cultural opportunities through various infrastructure improvements*

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Cedar River INITIATIVE

INFRASTRUCTURE

PLAN WORKSHEET

COMMITTEE: Infrastructure

GOAL: *Evaluate and utilize best practices relating to the flood plain and associated development*

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST TO COMPLETE	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Define best management practices. ➤ <i>Rebuild baseball stadium with smart building practices.</i> ➤ <i>Increase building elevation requirements to 3' above 100-year. floodplain level.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review literature at national and State level relating to best management practices. ➤ Develop a comprehensive set of standards or policies that can be adopted by local jurisdictions. ➤ Utilizing a planning and public input process encourage a balanced approach to allow for responsible development and expansion of open space. ➤ Work with water quality committee on identifying. infrastructure that impacts the water quality of the river ➤ <i>EPA, Chesapeake Bay Area, Puget Sound, Chicago – Green Alley Project, Madison/Dane County.</i> 			

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Cedar River INITIATIVE

INFRASTRUCTURE

PLAN WORKSHEET

COMMITTEE: Infrastructure

GOAL: *Assess and maximize utilization and development of natural and man made resources*

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST TO COMPLETE	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Protect existing and sensitive areas. ➤ Modify existing natural resources for recreational opportunities. ➤ Restore ecological river functions. ➤ <i>Participate/coordinate a regional scale watershed planning effort.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Creation of rain gardens.</i> 			

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Cedar River INITIATIVE

INFRASTRUCTURE

PLAN WORKSHEET

COMMITTEE: Infrastructure

GOAL: Encourage private sector development along Cedar River

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST TO COMPLETE	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Utilize public/private partnerships. ➤ Create incentives <i>and/or identify funding sources</i> to encourage sustainable private development along the river. ➤ Interface development with comprehensive land use plans. ➤ Enhance the synergy between the river and the central business district. ➤ <i>Explore opportunities for use of fill material as a result of river dredging.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Develop/adopt guidelines, ordinances, design standards, etc.</i> ➤ <i>Identify construction types/methods appropriate for waterfront development.</i> ➤ <i>Potentially create special overlay district/requirements.</i> ➤ <i>Require replacement of boathouses to be “smarter design.”</i> ➤ Review existing comprehensive land use plans and update as necessary, with the goal of creating one comprehensive land use plan for the river. 	Local jurisdictions, INRCOG.		

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Cedar River INITIATIVE

INFRASTRUCTURE

PLAN WORKSHEET

COMMITTEE: Infrastructure

GOAL: *Bring all interests and local, state and national regulatory agencies together to identify opportunities and solutions to barriers*

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST TO COMPLETE	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Explore opportunities for the new open spaces in the floodplain, which are now available through Federal or State funding.</i> ➤ <i>Address disconnect between hazard mitigation plans and economic development efforts (P&Z).</i> ➤ <i>Assist and review planning for reuse of areas impacted by 2008 floods.</i> ➤ <i>Encourage IDNR to not allow waivers for rebuilding in the floodplain.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>City referendum</i> 			

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PLAN WORKSHEET

COMMITTEE: Water Quality

GOAL: Improve Water Quality to Meet Standards of Clean Water Act

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST TO COMPLETE	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Institutionalize environmental awareness (<i>Black Hawk Park and other county parks should offer public programs such as Hartman R).</i> ➤ Reduce <i>the impact of</i> flooding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve environmental education. ➤ Focus on attitudinal and behavioral change. ➤ Clearly define agency and jurisdictional responsibilities and encourage interagency cooperation. ➤ Enlist local resources and knowledge. ➤ Reduce floodplain encroachment/reduction (i.e., FEMA programs). ➤ Retro best management practices (i.e., rain gardens, regional retention, green roofs). ➤ New development best management practices (i.e., local and regional retention ponds, green roofs, rain gardens, rain barrels, pervious pavement systems, native prairie plantings). ➤ Adapt and enforce EPA best management practices for runoff control on development sites. 			

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PLAN WORKSHEET

COMMITTEE: Water Quality

GOAL: *Improve Water Quality to Meet Standards of Clean Water Act (Cont)*

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST TO COMPLETE	TIMELINE
➤ Improve <i>Riparian Habitat</i> aesthetics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve riverside land management for both natural and developed urban areas. ➤ Improve interagency cooperation. ➤ Improve water clarity by reducing suspended solids and algae blooms. ➤ Reduce silt deposits on public areas such as boat ramps and sand bars. ➤ Adapt "Iowa Protected Water Areas" general plan guidelines. ➤ Adapt USDA agricultural best management practices. 			

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PLAN WORKSHEET

COMMITTEE: Water Quality

GOAL: *Improve Water Quality to Meet Standards of Clean Water Act (Cont)*

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST TO COMPLETE	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote swimmable <i>waters to increase the personal contact of the river.</i> ➤ <i>Coordinate monitoring efforts with areas up and downstream (including tributaries) to improve water quality.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Eliminate bio-impairment. ➤ Improve database and establish base line. ➤ Review and update standards and regulations. ➤ Identify point source discharge problems. ➤ Identify non-point source problems. ➤ Toughen enforcement of existing and/or revised standards. 			

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PLAN WORKSHEET

COMMITTEE: Water Quality

GOAL: *Improve Water Quality to Meet Standards of Clean Water Act (Cont)*

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST TO COMPLETE	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve <i>conditions for recreation such as</i> boating, <i>kayaking, canoeing</i> and sport fishing. ➤ <i>Ensure quality of freshwater fish for consumption.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Appropriate use of low-head dams including removal. ➤ Provide an abundance of convenient, well-maintained access areas. ➤ Improve water clarity. ➤ Support Iowa DNR fishery management. ➤ Improve and create new fish spawning areas. ➤ Improve database for heavy metals and other contaminants effecting safe consumption of fish from the Cedar River. ➤ Tougher enforcement of existing standards where necessary. ➤ Promote clean-up of existing problems areas. 			

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PLAN WORKSHEET

COMMITTEE: Water Quality

GOAL: *Improve Water Quality to Meet Standards of Clean Water Act (Cont)*

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	COST TO COMPLETE	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Incorporate water quality objectives with local and regional policy decisions (i.e. stormwater plans, runoff reduction, etc.).</i> ➤ <i>Strengthen and support Iowa's protected water areas program.</i> ➤ <i>Promote enforcement of protecting natural habitats when building amenities.</i> ➤ <i>Link data to State and Federal regulations (i.e. Clean Water Act, EPA Standards, etc.).</i> ➤ <i>Provide background on existing regulations and policies to ensure all parties are aware of existing standards, impaired H2O list and what it means.</i> 				

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